BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 08632 269 8

Accessions
(683)
Shelf No.
7542.56
FOUNDED 1852
SIC UT PATRIUS SIT DEUS NOBIS
BOSTONIA
CONDITA A.D.
1630.
CIVIBUS SUIS DONATA A.D. 1852.
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Received Aug. 13, 1889.

THE

CONFESSION OF FAITH,

COVENANT, AND RULES,

OF THE

Congregational Church,

AT

SALMON FALLS, ROLLINSFORD, N. H.

THE

CONFESSION OF FAITH,

COVENANT, AND RULES,

OF THE

Congregational Church,

AT

SALMON FALLS, ROLLINSFORD, N. H.

PRINTED BY GEORGE K. SNOW,
No. 5 Washington Street, Boston.
1852.

PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

B. 96.
(683)
Aug. 13, 1889.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

Beloved Friends,—

You have presented yourselves before God, and his people, and the world, to make a solemn profession of your religious faith, and to take upon you the bonds of the everlasting covenant.

We hope you have well considered the nature of this transaction — the most solemn and momentous in which a mortal can ever engage — and we trust you are prepared by divine grace to give yourselves away, as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You will now attend to the

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

You believe in the existence of one true God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

You believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by Divine inspiration, and contain the only rule of faith and practice.

You believe in the fall of man, and in his entire depravity; — in the necessity of an atonement, and of our being renewed in the spirit of our minds.

You believe in the doctrines of repentance towards God;—of faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ;—of sanctification by the Holy Spirit;—and of justification by the free grace of God, through the redemption that is in his Son.

You believe that Christ hath appointed two special ordinances—Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

You believe in the doctrine of a general resurrection and future judgment;—in the everlasting blessedness of the righteous, and the endless punishment of the finally impenitent.

Do you thus believe?

You will now attend to the

COVENANT.

You do now with sincerity of heart, acknowledge your infinite obligation to be the Lord's, and with a deep sense of your unworthiness, desire to lay hold on His holy and everlasting covenant, and to give up yourself (or selves) to God the Father as your God and Father, and your eternal Portion;—and to the blessed Jesus, the Redeemer and Head of the Church, as your Prophet, Priest, and King, confiding in Him alone for salvation;—and to the Holy Spirit, relying on Him for sanctification, guidance and comfort.

Depending on Divine Grace for assistance, you hereby solemnly bind yourself (or selves) to glorify God, by a faithful discharge of the duties of sobriety, righteousness and godliness, and by a diligent observance of all His commandments and ordinances.

You especially engage to walk with this Church, faithfully attending the public worship of God, the sacraments of the New Testament, the discipline of His Kingdom, and all His sacred institutions, — and watchfully avoiding whatever is contrary to purity, peace, and love, as becomes the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus.

All this you do, depending on the blood of the everlasting covenant for the pardon of your sins, and beseeching the glorious God to prepare and strengthen you for every good work, to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, dominion and praise, forever and ever.

Do you thus covenant and promise?

We then, the members of this Church, do admit you to the full enjoyment of all its privileges; — promising through divine grace assisting us, to aid you in the duties of the christian life, by our prayers and fraternal watchfulness; — expecting in return, the same offices from you, that the purposes of this holy covenant may be answered.

The Lord make us faithful to Himself, and to each other. — Amen.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE CHURCH.

I. All persons bringing letters of dismission and recommendation from other Churches, shall, previous to admission, be examined by the Committee of the Church.

II. Members of other Churches who may commune with us for more than six months, are requested to remove their connection to us, or give to the Examining Committee, satisfactory reasons for delay.

HISTORICAL NOTICE.

A few persons, inhabitants of the village of Salmon Falls, having assembled Jan. 3, 1846, to consider the expediency of forming an Ecclesiastical Society of the Congregational Order, unanimously resolved: "That the interests of religion and good morals in our village require the organization of such a Society," and appointed a Committee to prepare a Constitution. At an adjourned meeting Jan. 9, the Society was duly organized. Rev. B. L. Swan was immediately engaged to preach three months.

In April following, Mr. Samuel J. Spalding was engaged to preach the remainder of the year. In the same month incipient steps were taken towards forming a Church which was organized May 1, 1846, by an Ecclesiastical Council convened for the purpose, adopting the foregoing Confession of Faith and Covenant, and consisting of fourteen members.

Soon after the organization of the Church, John Crosby and Gilman Jaquith were chosen Deacons.

Mr. Spalding having received a unanimous invitation to become the Pastor of this Church and Society was ordained and installed Oct. 28, 1846.

The Deacons of the Church having removed from town, Charles F. Stewart and Horace Barbour were elected Deacons May 5, 1848.

At a meeting of the Church, April 20, 1849, the subject of building a house of worship was considered, and a Committee appointed to procure by subscription the funds necessary for the purpose. At a subsequent meeting, a report favorable to the enterprise was presented, and a Committee appointed to contract for and superintend the erection of the house; which was completed in the Spring of the following year, and dedicated to the worship of God, May 1, 1850.

Rev. Mr. Spalding having received an invitation to become the Pastor of the Whitfield Congregational Church in Newburyport, Mass., his pastoral relation to this Church and Society was dissolved June 9, 1851.

Rev. Edward E. Atwater, the present Pastor, was installed Feb. 3, 1852.

The following persons constitute the Examining Committee of the Church:

Rev. E. E. Atwater,
Dea. C. F. Stewart,
Dea. H. Barbour,
P. Lawton,
C. G. Marshall.

(Dec., 1888, 20,000)

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One volume allowed at a time, and obtained only by card; to be kept 14 days (or seven days in the case of fiction and juvenile books published within one year) without fine; not to be renewed; to be reclaimed [illegible]